

45755. ZEA MAYS L. Poaceæ.**Corn.**

From Caracas, Venezuela. Presented by Mr. Preston McGoodwin, American Minister. Received January 8, 1918.

A native white corn of the flour type. This corn is planted widely in Venezuela and is exported in large quantities.

45756. CHAYOTA EDULIS Jacq. Cucurbitaceæ.**Chayote.**

(*Sechium edule* Swartz.)

From Zacuapam, Mexico. Fruits presented by Dr. C. A. Purpus. Received January 3, 1918.

"The chayote is becoming known in the United States as a useful vegetable belonging to the squash family. In some parts of tropical America it is eaten as commonly as are potatoes in North America and in the same manner: Stewed with meat, creamed, and so on. It has not the food value of the potato, but is more comparable in this respect to the squash. In an effort to extend and improve its culture in this country, varieties are being introduced from as many regions as possible." (*Wilson Popenoe*.)

45757 to 45765. ZEA MAYS L. Poaceæ.**Corn.**

From Peru. Procured by Mr. William F. Montavon, American commercial attaché, Lima. Received January 10, 1918. Quoted notes by Mr. E. B. Brown, of the Office of Corn Investigations.

"Varieties of the flour type introduced for experimental and breeding work."

45757. No. 20. *Punso*, Huarnancaca. "A dark-red variety."

45758. No. 33. *Flor de Granada*, Pucara. "A purple variety."

45759. No. 21. *Café con Leche*, Huayuca. "A coffee-with-milk colored variety."

45760. No. 6. *Rosa Bajo*, Sapallanga. "A purple variety."

45761. No. 2. *Crema*, Chongos. "A yellow variety."

45762. No. 32. *Granada*, Salcabamba. "A purple variety."

45763. No. 13. *Mirto*, Huarnancaca. "A variegated variety."

45764. No. 8. *Pecho de Paloma*, Chupaca. "A purplish and mottled variety."

45765. No native name. "A purple and yellow variety."

45766. ELAEIS GUINEENSIS Jacq. Phœnicaceæ.**Oil palm.**

From Buitenzorg, Java. Presented by Mr. P. J. S. Cramer, chief, Plant Breeding Station. Received January 23, 1918.

This palm is very important economically. The fruit is used by the natives for food; an intoxicating drink is made from the juice of the stem; the leaf-stalks and leaves are used for thatching the native houses; and the fleshy outer layer and the kernels of the fruit each yield a commercial oil—that from the fleshy part being the ordinary palm oil used in the manufacture of soap and candles and that from the kernels being the white or nut oil used for making margarine or artificial butter. It is a native of tropical West Africa and, both wild and in cultivation, occurs over immense areas. (Adapted from *Macmillan, Handbook of Tropical Gardening and Planting*, p. 538.)

Messrs. Dorsett, Shamel, and Popenoe, in Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 445, mention the uses of this tree in Brazil. In regard to the oil from the pulp they say: "Dendé oil [as it is there called] is an important food prod-